

Administration Reports March 2026

Sam Boardman Elementary

Sam Boardman Elementary continues to prioritize meaningful family engagement and strong academic support systems to ensure student success. In addition to hosting enriching schoolwide events, we are actively implementing a high-dosage tutoring program designed to accelerate learning and provide targeted support for students who need it most.

On February 19, 2026, SBE welcomed families for a highly successful Family STEAM Night. STEAM came to life as the foyer, cafeteria, and gymnasium were filled with hands-on activities and experiments. Families were greeted by staff and entered into a raffle to win 1 of 5 new tablets, creating excitement from the start.

In the cafeteria, students and families excavated dinosaur eggs, created DIY lava lamps, identified dinosaur species, and explored gem and rock collections. In the gymnasium, and built battery-powered cars and windmills with staff support. Families also participated in STEAM Bingo and STEAM-themed Jeopardy sponsored by SBE PTO.

The event was highly regarded by attendees. One parent shared, "I was so impressed by the creative, hands-on nature of the activities. My kids loved having the opportunity to explore, create, and learn."

In January, Sam Boardman Elementary School had the great opportunity to partner with Jess Hagedorn from EOU to train 5 teachers and 6 educational assistants through a grant from ODE. The training was on Phonics for Reading which is a foundational reading program we are using to provide High Dosage Tutoring to some of our 2nd and 3rd grade students. There are a total of 44 students who are receiving instruction with this program for the duration of the year, the students are in small groups of 2-4 with one adult. Our students are showing a higher confidence in their reading abilities and are eager to attend reading WIN time. We are excited to see how this impacts our reading achievement levels at Sam Boardman Elementary School.

Sam Boardman Elementary remains committed to creating meaningful learning opportunities for students both inside and outside the classroom. Through engaging family events like STEAM Night and the implementation of targeted supports such as high-dosage tutoring, the school continues to strengthen partnerships with families while accelerating student learning. Staff look forward to building on this momentum and monitoring the positive impact these efforts will have on student confidence, engagement, and academic achievement.

Windy River Elementary

Read Across America Week

Windy River Elementary had a fantastic Read Across America Week! Our students celebrated literacy with enthusiasm and joy. Throughout the week, students enjoyed dress-up days, participated in a bookmark-making contest, and had the opportunity to receive books from our book vending machine — which continues to be a huge motivator and highlight for our kids.

We were also fortunate to host several outstanding guest readers. Representatives from City Government, including Brandon Hammond and his crew, members of the local Fire Department, and five Riverside High School seniors all volunteered their time to read to our students. Each group did an amazing job engaging with our kids. It was clear that students truly enjoyed the experience and appreciated seeing community members model the importance of reading.

Elementary Principal Walk-Throughs

Our elementary administrative team has begun visiting one another's schools for instructional walk-throughs. This collaboration has been incredibly valuable. It is inspiring to see the high-quality work happening across our elementary buildings. Teachers and principals are working hard every day to ensure students receive the education they deserve.

It is a privilege to be part of an elementary team that collaborates, shares ideas, and supports one another. MCSD is fortunate to have such dedicated professionals serving our students.

ODE Visit – Foundational Reading Program

In February, Oregon Department of Education representative Angie Gunther visited Windy River Elementary to observe our foundational reading program in action. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the strong work of our staff and students.

During her visit, we discussed school improvement efforts and strategies for increasing our Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) scores. I am proud to share that Angie described the work happening at WRE as “impressive,” specifically highlighting our implementation of the foundational reading program.

A special thank you to Erin Stocker, Rachel Herron, and Matt Combe for coming by to support WRE during the visit. We appreciated the opportunity to show off the great work happening in our building!

Quarter 2 Wise Wolf Awards Celebration

We recently held our Quarter 2 Wise Wolf Awards, and it was a tremendous success! Parents were invited to join us as we celebrated students for their academic growth and positive citizenship. It was a great opportunity to recognize the hard work our students are putting in each day.

As part of the celebration, we held our popular “ticket pulls” where students earned chances to win fun prizes. We also gave away three bikes and scooters to students from each grade level. The excitement was high, and the positive energy in the building was incredible. Our kids are doing a great job, and it was wonderful to celebrate their efforts together.

Good things are happening at WRE! Go Wolves!

Pictures of all the stuff!!!





Read Across America!

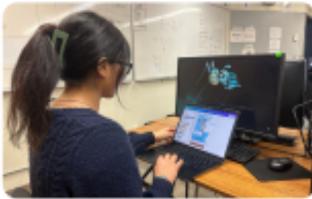


PIRATE NATION NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight



Jessica Afanador

Jessica is a senior this year and excels in academics and extracurriculars such as FBLA, volleyball and softball. She also works to make the Social Media posts for the Riverside Marketing page

UPCOMING VARSITY HOME GAMES

District Tournament
March 6th-7th
Junior High Wrestling

VS. Stanfield
March 16th
Girls/Boys 3PM
Tennis

VS. Pilot Rock
March 17th
Girls/Boys 2PM
softball baseball



Athletic Spotlight Julieta Mendoza

Freshman Julieta Mendoza just finished her first season at the Wing in basketball.

Julieta also starred as a midfielder for the Girls Soccer team, who advanced to the playoffs this year.



Christy's Corner

- If you are parking on campus, you must get a parking permit.
- Shoutout to the students that are received Honor Roll for Semester !!
- Keep on showing Pirate Pride!



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A.C. Houghton Elementary

March is here, the days are getting longer, and there are many exciting things happening at ACH. The sunshine in the past several days has been a welcome sign of spring. This week, students were walking past my office window admiring the daffodils that have begun to bloom—such a wonderful reminder that spring is on its way.

This week is filled with exciting events as we celebrate Read Across America. Students and staff are enjoying themed dress-up days designed to promote and celebrate a love of reading throughout our school community.

We will conclude the week with a Book Buddies activity, where 2nd and 3rd grade students partner with PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students to share time reading together. These cross-grade experiences are always a highlight and a wonderful way to build both literacy skills and connections among our students.

On Thursday evening, we are also hosting our highly anticipated Family Literacy Night. We have a large committee that has worked hard to plan, and we are very excited to execute an event to promote literacy for our students. The evening will include dinner for families, and a variety of engaging literacy activities such as read-alouds, crafts connected to the stories, raffles, and a book walk (like a cake walk, but with free books!). Students will also have the opportunity to take home a free book to continue building their home libraries. One of the most exciting components of the evening is our partnership with Eastern Oregon University, which is sponsoring an ACH family book study of *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White. Through this partnership, every ACH family will receive a copy of the book, with Spanish editions available for families who need them. We are excited to bring our entire school community together through this shared reading experience and the many activities that will accompany it.

Stay tuned for next month's update, where we will share highlights from this event, participation from our families, and the fun our students are having as they get to know and love Wilbur, Charlotte, and Templeton. We are confident it will be "Some Event"—truly "Terrific" and "Radiant"—and, most importantly, an opportunity to nurture a love of reading together as families. I will also have a couple field trips to add to my April report, experiences giving our students opportunities beyond the walls of ACH to experience learning within our region and community.

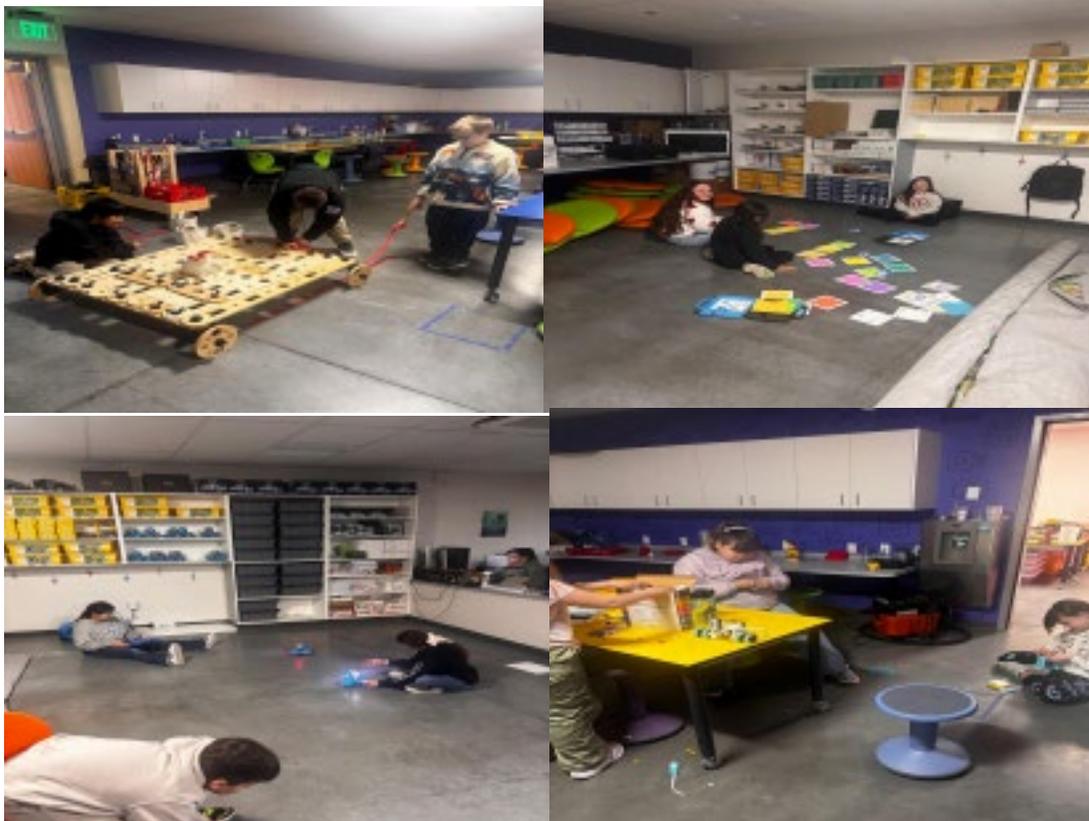
As the end of the school year begins to come into view, we are truly cherishing the time we have with our students and the many opportunities to support their learning as we wrap up the third quarter this month. We will finish March with a well-deserved week of spring break, giving everyone a chance to rest and recharge before the final stretch of the school year. Don't forget to spring forward this weekend!



Irrigon Elementary School

February was a busy and productive month at Irrigon Elementary School. Classrooms were full of hands-on learning, and our staff continued digging into strong instructional work across grade levels.

Our 4th grade students had an incredible opportunity to spend two consecutive days at the SAGE Center. This wasn't just a quick field trip—it was a true learning experience. Students participated in both whole-group and small-group projects that pushed their critical thinking and design skills. They were asked to problem-solve, collaborate, and think creatively in ways that connected directly to real-world applications. Having two full days allowed them time to wrestle with ideas, revise their thinking, and build confidence in their solutions. It was exciting to see them step into the role of engineers and designers and fully engage in the process.



In 6th grade, Mr. Temple has been leading a meaningful recycling effort with his students. They've been collecting the large tin cans used by our kitchen for breakfast and lunch service, crushing them, and turning them in for recycling. So far, students have collected 144 pounds of cans. Beyond the impressive number, what stands out most is the ownership students are taking. They're learning about teamwork, environmental responsibility, and how small, consistent efforts can make a big difference. It's a simple project with a powerful impact.



Across the building, our teachers continue to focus on strengthening core instruction. One of the highlights this month has been cross-grade level conversations. Teachers are intentionally connecting curriculum from one grade to the next to ensure alignment and a smooth progression of skills for students. These conversations have been productive and reflective. As a staff, we've spent time clarifying the differences between objectives, learning targets, and success criteria—making sure we are clear about what students need to learn, how we communicate that learning in student-friendly language, and how students know they are successful. That clarity is helping strengthen lesson design, increase student ownership, and sharpen our focus on outcomes that matter.

Finally, a fun addition to our playground this month—our custodial team recently painted official soccer lines on the field. This has been an instant hit with students who already love playing soccer at recess. The clearly marked boundaries help keep games organized and contained to a designated area (and may reduce the number of “That was totally in!” debates). We're grateful for the extra care our custodians put into creating spaces that support both fun and safety. It's amazing what a few lines of paint can do to elevate recess enthusiasm.



Overall, February reflected steady growth—in student experiences, student leadership, and instructional clarity. We're proud of the work happening in our classrooms and the commitment our staff continues to show in supporting every learner.

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School

IJSHS will be hosting QPR training during Spring Conferences on April 7 and 9. QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is an evidence-based suicide prevention training designed to empower community members with practical, life-saving skills. April 7th the session will be in English and April 9th the session will be in Spanish.

Currently ELPA testing is occurring. Once this is finished we will move into state testing. Our IXL scores have shown improvements overall in Math and LA. Hopefully this will transfer into improved OSAS scores.

There are a couple of dates coming up for students to learn about college and job opportunities. In March, several students will attend the Think Big Career Quest put on by Amazon. They will learn what it is like to be a data career technician for AWS.

In April, a group will head to WWCC for Try-A-Trade day. This is something we have attended in the past and the students learn a lot about different trades.

Also, congratulations to the Boys Wrestling team who placed 4th at state.

Heppner Elementary School

Spring is just around the corner, and classrooms at Heppner Elementary are full of energy and engagement. February and March are critical months for student learning, and our teachers are making the most of this time—diving into core instruction and already seeing meaningful growth in their students.

On March 2, HES students and staff came together to celebrate Read Across America Week as a school community. We were fortunate to welcome community members into our classrooms to share their love of reading. Students participated in a variety of projects and crafts, and our reading buddy activities—pairing upper and lower elementary students—brought a special sense of connection and joy to the day. We wrapped up the celebration with a schoolwide DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time, reinforcing the importance of reading across all grade levels.

Safety continues to be our top priority at HES. With ongoing courthouse construction, we have adjusted our dismissal procedures to ensure students are safe. I appreciate the flexibility and support of our staff and families as we implemented these changes—thanks to their cooperation, the transition to our new routine has gone smoothly.

Our spring book fair, organized by our dedicated PTC, was a wonderful success. In addition to raising funds to support classroom libraries, the event brought families together for a fun-filled evening. With a Magic Castle theme, students and their families enjoyed hands-on activities like creating “potions,” crafting crowns, and exploring the library in search of favorite characters and authors. I would also like to extend a thank you to Despain Pizza for their continued partnership and generosity in supporting our events and students.

As we approach spring break, we are also preparing for a busy and exciting season ahead, including state testing, outdoor school, and planning for the 2026–27 school year. While this time of year brings a steady rhythm to our work, I am looking forward to all that spring has in store for our students and staff.



Heppner Jr/Sr High School

1. Staffing and Instruction

As we move into spring, we are beginning planning for 2025–26, including projected enrollment, course offerings, and staffing assignments. Our priority remains protecting strong core instruction while maintaining meaningful elective and hands-on learning opportunities for students.

Teachers are progressing through second semester curriculum, and we are closely monitoring student performance as we approach state testing and end-of-year assessments. Classroom walkthroughs continue to emphasize student engagement, clear learning targets, and high expectations.

2. School Culture and Student Engagement

Winter athletics concluded with all four programs — Boys Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Boys Basketball, and Girls Basketball — advancing to postseason competition. We are proud of how our students represented Heppner and the commitment shown by our coaches and athletes.

Spring sports have now begun, including Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, and Golf. Participation remains strong, and involvement in activities continues to be one of our most effective tools for building connection and accountability.

As we enter the spring months, we are reinforcing expectations for attendance, behavior, and academic effort to maintain a positive and focused school environment.

3. Academic Focus Areas

a. Attendance

Our February attendance rate held above 90%, which is encouraging. We continue to monitor students nearing chronic absenteeism thresholds and work with families to address concerns early. Consistent daily attendance remains a top priority.

b. Career and Technical Education (CTE)

State FFA Convention takes place this month, and we will be sending students to compete at the state level through National FFA Organization. TSA competitions are also underway through Technology Student Association.

These programs provide hands-on, leadership-driven learning experiences that connect classroom skills to real-world applications and future career pathways.

c. College & Career Readiness

Mrs. Miller is promoting the Think Big Career Quest event on March 10 in Boardman for juniors and seniors interested in data center careers. Students will receive career exploration and interview preparation support. Space is limited, and we are encouraging interested students to participate. Ensuring every student graduates with a clear and actionable post-secondary plan remains a central focus of our work.

Staff Incident/Accidents Report:

Date	School	Incident
2/5/2026	ACH	Student hit employees face, knocking glasses off, glasses were bent and needed repair.

MCS D Maintenance & Facilities Report – March 2026

We met with administrators, head custodians and lead maintenance to begin the budgeting process for the 2026-2027 school year. We will review and decide which projects to move forward with based on safety, extending useful life and efficiencies/cost savings. The items are added to the overall maintenance budget which is due before Spring Break. PACE visited Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr Sr High to ensure safety and reduce risk for our staff, students and visitors. We have a few items that will be remediated, but overall, it was a successful visit with many positive takeaways.

Bond Project Update:

Wenaha, SAJ and District team have weekly meetings to stay on track.

The February Bond Oversight Committee meeting went well. Scott from Wenaha, presented an update on the progress and budget which led to questions and discussion. As a reminder, the committee will meet quarterly through the entire bond process ending in the fall of 2029. The BOC's core purpose will be to carefully monitor the delivery of the proposed bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. The meetings are facilitated by Wenaha along with Matt, Gabe and Brandi. Up to three board members are allowed to attend the meetings.

The BOC members include Brett Harrison, Meghan Golden, Don Alleman, Justin Nelson, Tia McNamee, Zac Acock, Debbie Radie, Phyllis Danielson, Torrie Griggs, Frances Glenn, George Shimer and Karen Pettigrew.

The final group Design Advisory Committee (DAC) was held in February. We are proud of the collaborative approach our three DAC committees showed during our four meetings. SAJ presented the draft floor plans using 3D models which helped to conceptualize the buildings, many oohs and aahs could be heard throughout the room. We were guided through an imagery charette where members expressed what they liked or didn't like about colors, design, lighting and building materials to help create a palette for the architects.

Starting in March, Irrigon's DAC will meet for the next seven months separately for schematic design and design development. Their March meeting will offer multiple school tours of newly constructed school buildings to gather ideas and inspire our design process.

Boardman's DAC will meet from July 2025 – January 2027. Heppner's meetings are September 2026 – March 2027. During those meetings, the DACs will create unique, individual spaces for their buildings.

Irrigon's DAC members are Rose Palmer, Marie Shimer, Addie Cole, Dan Locey, James Durfee, Brenda Shockman, Heidi Horn and daughter Jade and Aaron Palmquist.

Boardman's DAC members are John Christy, Marie Shimer, David Boor, Stephanie Simpson, Claude Birt, Smokey Joe Wightman, Veronica Nunez Lezama and daughter Ariana and Luis Campos.

Heppner's DAC members are Ryan Gerry, Laura Winters, Marie Shimer, Petra Payne, Jason Palmer, Ashley Beard, Sarah Matheny and son Peyton, Linsey Hanna and son Jasper, Jennifer Wilson, John Doherty and Linda Kenny.

The group is tasked with helping to shape the design and vision of the schools and to communicate the work with the staff, community and stakeholders. They will prioritize cost framework, craft the design goals and refine the design to shape the future of our schools.

On March 6, SAJ will be conducting virtual educator workshops to engage specific staff on programming needs. The groups include special education/life skills, media center/library, art, business, food service, music, physical education/athletics, science/ag/shop and administration/student services. We are looking forward to hearing from them about what they envision for their spaces.

Fowler Construction has provided comments on the Irrigon draft plans to help the project continue to be efficient, especially from the mechanical, electrical and utilities standpoint. Their collaboration with SAJ has been vital. Fowler visited WRE to get a first-hand look at the safety upgrades and will suggest a few minor changes to ensure constructability. Permitting is next for SAJ and Fowler will begin the subcontractor bidding process. The District team along with SAJ and partners are reviewing software programs with the goal of finding systems that will be used in all our facilities that are versatile and long-lasting.

Topographic and utility survey reports have been received and shared with Wenaha and SAJ. Hazardous material survey samples have been collected with three reports to be finalized. Geotech surveys, including boring, seismic and test plots are complete, reports to follow. Our next procurements include third party cost estimator and commissioning authority, both due this month. Structural Waterproofing was awarded the bid for the building envelope consultant. All surveys and consultants are a vital part of the process to aid the architects and general contractors to know what to expect and provide a checks and balances system which in turn should keep the change orders and unexpected expenses minimal.

Pacific Northwest Communications will create a news release about the February DAC and next steps which will be shared on all schools' social media and area news outlets. Xenia from IMESD along with Daniel of PACWest have created videos featuring our DAC student leaders that have been shared on social media. We appreciate the students for their willingness to share their experience. When the draft floor plans are ready for release, we plan on presenting to our schools, community organizations and members to share the hard work from our DACs and the SAJ Architects.

The District team would like to thank all the volunteer committee members for their time, openness and support. We are excited to work collaboratively with the school board, staff, students and the community to create facilities for the next generations.

For Irrigon, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	03/2026 – 06/2026
Design Development:	06/2026 – 10/2026
Construction Documents:	11/2026 – 03/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	02/2027 – 06/2027
Construction:	07/2027 – 04/2029

For Riverside, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	07/2026 – 09/2026
Design Development:	10/2026 – 01/2027
Construction Documents:	01/2027 – 05/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	06/2027 – 09/2027
Construction:	10/2027 – 03/2029

For Heppner K-12, the proposed schedule is as follows:

Schematic Design:	09/2026 – 12/2026
Design Development:	12/2026 – 03/2027
Construction Documents:	03/2027 – 06/2027
Bidding and Permitting:	07/2027 – 10/2027
Construction:	02/2028 – 06/2029

Respectfully Submitted By,
Matt Combe, Gabe Hansen and Brandi Sweeney